Ebenezer Willis Barnes.
Worcester 1843

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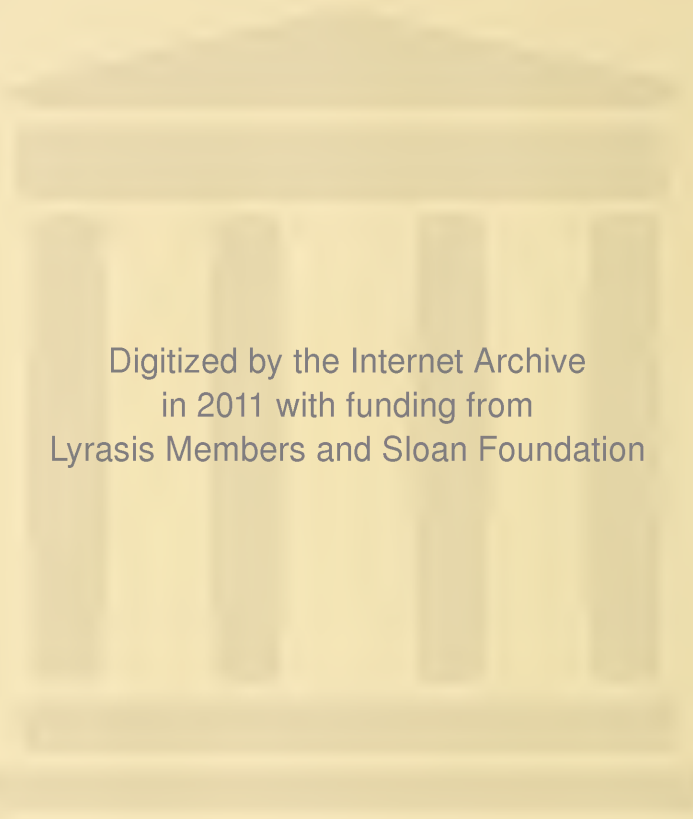
1833 to 1873.

Elgin - no constitution
in 1833 - Dissolved in
1846.



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MINUTES

OF THE

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

CANAAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD AT

HEBRON MEETING-HOUSE,

JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALA.,

FROM 6TH TO 8TH OCTOBER,

1849.

TUSCALOOSA:
PRINTED BY M. D. J. SLADE.
1849.

MINUTES.

1. The Ministers and Delegates to the Sixteenth Annual Session of the Canaan Baptist Association, met at Hebron Meeting-house, Jefferson county, and repaired to the stand, where the Introductory Sermon was preached before a large audience by Elder A. J. Waldrop, from Pr., 14th chap. 26th v.: "In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence," &c.

2. After which, the delegates assembled in the meeting-house; prayer by Elder J. Moor.

3. The letters from the churches were called for, read, and the names of their delegates enrolled.

4. Elder J. Moor was chosen Moderator; A. J. Waldrop, Recording, and Wm. J. Rockett, Corresponding Secretary.

5. Ministers from sister Associations were invited to seats.

6. Read Rules of Decorum.

7. An opportunity was afforded for the admission of newly constituted churches; when Good Hope church, Walker county, came forward by letter and delegates, and being found orthodox, was cordially received, by the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship. Attached to 3d District.

8. Correspondence received. A letter from Muscle Shoal Association—no delegates nor minutes. A letter and minutes from Coosa River, by the hands of T. P. Holcombe and Wm McCain. A letter and package of minutes from Mulberry Association by A. Adams. A letter from Tuskaloosa Association, by the hands of Burns and Arnold—(minutes previously received.)

9. Correspondence returned, with letter and minutes. To Muscle Shoal, Smith, A. J. Waldrop and Speakman; J. Moor to write. To Coosa River, J. Moor, E. Wood, and J. Oliver; W. J. Rockett, to write. To Tuscaloosa Association, Byars, Smith and Waldrop; E. King to write. To Mulberry Association, Harris, King and Wood; Waldrop to write.

10. Committees were appointed, viz:

To arrange Business: Byars, Rockett, and Means, with the Moderator and Clerk.

On Finance: Timmons and Chenault.

On State of Religion: Byars, Moor, and Waldrop.

11. Elected Elders Burns and McCain to occupy the stand on to-morrow, in connexion with Byars, who, by appointment, is to preach the Missionary Sermon.

12. Appointed Wood, Hagood, King, and McMath to pass through the congregation immediately after the preaching of the Missionary Sermon, and receive contributions; the same to be applied to Indian Missions.

13. Appointed E. King, J. Moor, R. Wood, W. C. Harris, and T. F. Waldrop messengers to the Alabama Baptist State Convention; W. J. Rocket to write.

After prayer by bro. Smith, adjourned until half past 9 o'clock, Monday morning.

Was occupied at the stand by Elder W. Burns, in the morning, at 10 o'clock, after which Elder Byars delivered a Missionary Sermon; when a collection amounting to about $22 was taken up. Then adjourned for dinner. (The brethren tented on the ground.) After which, Elder Wm. McCain preached to a very large congregation; at the close of the sermon an opportunity was given for mourners to present themselves, when a great many came weeping to the anxious seats; prayers were offered, and we trust much good accomplished. Services were continued till late in the evening; a short recess was then given, and the services commenced again at the stand, which continued until a late hour in the night. We hope that many souls were given unto Christ on that occasion.

MONDAY MORNING.

14. Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Elder J. Byars.

15. The committee on arrangement reported, and were discharged.

16. The roll was read.

17. The committee on Domestic Missions, appointed at last Association, reported through their Secretary, bro. Rockett, (see Appendix A,); and for the reports of bros. Smith and Waldrop, see Appendix, B. They were all received and adopted. It was agreed to continue the course of last year, which was to appoint a member from each church, to compose the Executive Board. Whereupon, the Moderator appointed J. P. Allen, E. King, L. M. Wood, M. Pool, R. Blythe, J. H. Franklin, E. Wood, Z. Hagood, Wm. Chenault, T. L. Miles, C. Waldrop, Wm J. Rockett, T. F. Waldrop, R. Stone, O. Franklin, jr., M. McMath, W. Burchfield, and J. Speakman; whose duty it is, to be engaged with their respective churches and congregations, in raising funds for Domestic Missions, until Friday before the first Sabbath in May, when said committee is to meet at Union church, Jefferson county, and if the funds will justify, to employ some person or persons to ride and preach in the destitute sections North and West of this Association.

18. The committee on the state of Religion, made their Report, which was concurred in, and the committee discharged. (See Report, App. C.)

19. The committee on Finance reported as follows:

Rec'd from the Churches for printing Minutes,	$30 40	
Cash in the hands of the Clerk last year,	4 75	
		$35 15
Rec'd from the Churches for the use of the Association,		18 65
Rec'd from collections taken on Sabbath for Indian Mission,		22 00
Rec'd from O. W. Wood, for African Mission,		1 00

20. REPORT OF DISTRICT MEETINGS. The First will be held with the Shoal Creek church, Shelby county, commencing Friday before the third Sabbath in July; Elder W. C. Harris to preach the Introductory Sermon; Elder A. McDonald alternate. The Second, will be held with Salem church, Jefferson county, commencing on Friday before the second Sabbath in September. The Third, to be held with the Big Creek church, Jefferson county, to commence on Friday before the first Sabbath in September; Elder A. J. Waldrop to preach the Introductory Sermon; Elder

O. Franklin alternate; and bro. Wm J. Rockett to prepare an essay to be read at that meeting.

21. The letters of correspondence were read and approved.

22. E. Wood was continued as Treasurer.

23. The nsxt Association is to be held with the Mud Creek church, Jefferson county, to commence on Saturday before the first Sabbath in October, 1850. Elder J. Moor to preach the Introductory Sermon; Elder H. G. Smith, alternate. Elder A. J. Waldrop to preach the Missionary Sermon; J. Byars alternate; and Elder J. Byars to write a Circular upon the Ways and Means to procure an efficient Ministry.

24. *Resolved*, That we recommend to the churches to be more liberal in their contributions for Associational purposes.

25. *Resolved*, That the Clerk superintend the printing of these Minutes; that he have as many printed as the fund will procure, after reserving twelve dollars and fifty cents for his labor; and that he reserve s sufficient quantity for correspondence; and then divide the balance amongst the Churches according to their contributions.

26. *Resolved*, That the Clerk make out a Table of the names of Post-Offices and of the Ordained and Licensed Ministers of the Gospel residing in the bounds of this Association.

27. *Resolved*, That the resolution requiring the Clerk to bring the Associational book to each annual meeting, be and the same is hereby repealed.

28. Distributing Agents—For the First District, J. Moor; 2d, E. Wood; 3d, A. J. Waldrop.

29. Bro. J. H. Baker, who was appointed at our last Association to prepare a Circular Letter for the present year, having failed to attend, from some cause, consequently, there is no Circular to these Minutes.

30. The Association having finished all the business before it, the Moderator addressed the Delegates in a few remarks; after which, A. J. Waldrop prayed, and then the Association adjourned.

A. J. Waldrop, Clerk. J. MOOR, Moderator.

APPENDIX.

(A.)

The Executive committee, appointed at the last Association, Report—That we met at Union church, on Friday the 4th day of May, 1849. Nine churches were represented; and pledges to the amount of eighty dollars and seventy-five cents reported.

The amount of funds pledged not justifying the employment of the number of Missionaries we had in the field last year—we elected Elders A. J. Waldrop and H. G. Smith, and assigned to them the duties of the Mission; and instructed them to adopt the resolution recommended by the Executive committee to the Association of last year, as a guide in the discharge of their legitimate duties; and instructed them also, to Report to this Committee, at the present session of the Association; whose Reports we herewith present.

We report further, that the claims of our Domestic Missionaries have been discharged by the Board, receipts taken, and lodged in the hands of the Treasurer; and that nineteen dollars and twenty-five cents of the Missionary fund remain in the hands of the Treasurer. And further, that by a unanimous vote of the Board, it is recommended to the Association that the enterprize of Domestic Missions be continued.

All of which is respectfully submitted, EDM'D KING, Chairman.

W. J. Rockett, Sec'y.

(B.)

Report of Bros. Smith and Waldrop.

We commenced our labors on Friday before the 3d Sabbath in July. On that day we began a protracted meeting on Horse creek, in Walker county, where we continued day and night until the next Wednesday. The meeting then ceased; bro. Smith however, remained and preached on Thursday night. It was a time of feasting with some. At this place we

held a meeting last year, with good success; and at that time there was no house in which to assemble, but now, they have a decent log house erected, in which they often assemble for preaching, prayer, and sabbath school instruction. So desirous were they to have a church organized in this once wilderness country, that we agreed to meet there again in September, to constitute the same.

Our next meeting was in Cannon's settlement, in Jefferson county; but owing to high water, rain, &c., bro. Waldrop did not get there until Sunday. Bro. Smith had commenced on Friday: many persons were sick, and it was rainy weather; we dismissed on Sunday evening. That is a very destitute country; the people have built a decent house, and are desirous for preaching in it: there are many who do not enjoy the privileges of the sanctuary.

We next went north, in a country they call the "Penitentiary;" there is an anti-missionary church in that country, but they would not grant us the privilege of preaching in the house; so we preached in a school-house for three days, to an orderly and very attentive congregation. We trust some good was accomplished. Their doctrine, so far as we could learn, is not that advanced by the great body of the Baptists of Alabama, but rather on the two seed order. Much opposition to Missions, Education, Sabbath Schools, Temperance, &c., is manifested in their doctrine and practice; their ministers are not themselves educated, and do not perhaps know the value of an education. We had many solicitations to continue to preach in that settlement, and some proposed, that if we would agree to preach to them, they would build a house for that purpose.

Receiving solicitations from persons living still north, to go and preach in their midst; we accordingly went about twelve miles still north, and preached for two days. It was a time of weeping with some, and rejoicing with others. We were very friendly received by the people. We pray God's blessing on those people. Our doctrine and practice, as an Association, has been misrepresented; the people have been told that we tax all our members to pay our preachers, and that, as ministers, we charged for preaching a funeral $10, for baptizing each person $2, for serving churches, from $300 to $800 per year, &c. We were asked as to the facts of said reports, and when we stated our course as an Association, and as ministers, so far as we could learn, the people said "Amen!" Our opponents said, "as to doctrine we can say nothing, but they are *Missionaries*—this $1 per day we *can't stand.*"—We were told by the people that the preachers who have been preaching in that country, say, they want "*a book burning*,"—that they would "*burn a Bible Dictionary*" if one was given them.

We then returned home: bro. Waldrop took the fever; bro. Smith's family also sick; consequently we failed to attend our next meeting, which was to have been on Five Mile creek in Jefferson county. There is great destitution there—as much or more than any place we have been. Bro. Waldrop continued sick, and bro. Smith had to travel and preach alone. He held two meetings in Walker county, west of where he lives; the former of which continued three, the latter four days. One lady, with whom he had been acquainted for many years, and has been a mourner for a great while, was enabled, while at this meeting, to rise and praise God aloud; many wept, and we trust much good will result from these meetings—as "bread cast upon the waters."

Bro. Smith next held a meeting at a school house in Jefferson county, near Turkey creek; nothing uncommon occurring; congregation small till Sunday, then very large—so much so, that he had to preach in a grove.

We next went to Horse creek, where we contemplated constituting a church—bro. Waldrop now just able to preach, assisted in the business; we found four persons who had been members previously, who desired to be constituted, and several others who had professed religion at our meetings, who were expected would soon join; we agreed to organize them into a church; then opened a door for the reception of members; five were received; and on Monday bro. Waldrop led them down into the water, and baptized them. Such a baptismal scene we do not remember to have witnessed. We do not believe that there was a careless person present. All were either rejoicing or weeping: we contemplate a good church soon to be reared there. We think our labors were not in vain in that settlement.

We next held a meeting of four days, at a new meeting-house about seven miles west of Jonesborough. Many were the tears shed at this meeting.

Bro. Smith next held a meeting in Walker county, near Heard's Shoals; had good attention: we hope it was seed-sowing time. Here we closed our labors.

Bro. Smith rode 45 days, preached 38 sermons, delivered 7 exhortations, and rode about 500 miles.

Bro. Waldrop rode 26 days, preached about 22 sermons, and rode about 250 miles.

We have baptized eight persons, and constituted one church.

(C.) Report of the Committee on Religion.

We, your committee appointed to examine and report upon the subject of Religion, submit the following.

We have had the same under consideration, and have come to the conclusion, that in the bounds of our Association there has been much to gladden our hearts, in the intelligence which has been sent up from the churches in their letters; still we could desire it had been more general. From the report of our Domestic Missionaries, we learn that there is a desire for the hearing of the Word of God. Our borders are enlarging, and we trust much good has already been done; yet we learn there is destitution. As churches, we should still feel the obligation resting upon us, to preach the Gospel to every creature. We do think if we were more zealously engaged in that work, our own hearts would enjoy more of the power of religion. We think it is the privilege of Christians to live nearer to Christ, and enjoy more of his presence than many do; therefore we recommend, 1. That there be established in every church, (where they have not been already,) a *Prayer Meeting* and *Sabbath School;* which, no doubt, would tend to advance the cause of religion in our midst; and when a church enjoys a refreshing from the presence of the Lord, it feels more for the welfare of their neighbors, and the world that lieth in wickedness. It is too common that our churches meet but once a month for religious exercises: this should not be the case; all should meet every Sabbath, if convenient, and thereby raise our children "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." But many are ready to say, "well, if no person is going to be there to preach, I shall not go." This tends to embarrass the feelings of those who are willing to engage in prayer and exhortation; who conclude, that as but few attend, their prayers and exhortations are not acceptable, and soon abandon the course, or go elsewhere.

2. Churches should encourage young gifts in their respective bounds, by appointing meetings for them, and thereby give them an opportunity to exercise their gifts; and not only appoint meetings for them, but also to attend the same. No member of a church should feel at liberty to be absent from such meetings, for trifling excuses. Nothing, perhaps, serves to cramp the feelings of young ministers, so much as the non-attendance of the brethren at their meetings. No doubt there are gifts among us lying dormant—churches should bring them out.

Dear brethren, just cast your eyes over our Association—O, what a picture! 18 churches scattered over a large territory, and but 8 ordained ministers, and 3 licentiates, and some of them nearly superanuated. Where have our promising young men gone, that first began to publish the tidings of salvation in our bounds? and what have been the reasons of their removal? Many have gone to preach in other sections. The reason for this, no doubt, was because they were not sustained by our churches; being poor, and trammelled with the things of the world, and no assistance afforded them, they have gone to more promising fields. We think that when a church calls a man to serve them as pastor, they should see that he is supported; for those who preach the Gospel, should live of the same. We are far from wishing ministers to make a gain, or fortune by preaching; but they have a right to live as well as other men. We blame our ministers some; they should take a stand upon this subject, and if they do no more, should instruct. This is a delicate subject, and they should be careful lest they injure their usefulness. Deacons should see that this matter is well attended to.

3. There is too little information among our church members, whilst the same is accessible to all. We recommend to every Baptist family of this Association, the "Alabama Baptist Advocate," published at Marion, Perry county, by Rev. A. W. Chambliss; also, the "South Western Baptist Chronicle," of New-Orleans, published by Rev. W. C. Duncan. There are also many other excellent periodicals published, worthy of our patronage. Many of our brethren take political papers, and none other. Why is it thus: we are not opposed to members reading politics, but if only one paper can be afforded, let that be a religious one.

4. Family prayer is too much neglected by many. It is not a new thing. It was so, as long ago as when Jeremiah lived. He has a prayer about them: "Pour out thy fury upon the families that call not on thy name." Now, if there were families among the heathens that called forth such awful denunciations, what must we expect among christians. It is said of David, that "he returned to bless his household;" and Joshua said, "as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." We suppose that Abraham, who was so careful to instruct his household in the way of the Lord, did not neglect to pray with them. One writer, Jay, compares "a prayerless family to a roofless house." We might say more, but we leave the subject to your candid consideration.

J. BYARS, Chairman.

CANAAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION DELEGATES, STATISTICS.

	CHURCHES & COUNTIES	Names of Ordained Ministers in small capitals. Licentiate italic. DELEGATES.	Baptized.	Rec. by L.	Restored.	Dismiss'd	Excluded	Dead...	Males, ..	Females,	otal...	Contributed for M	Contr. for Associa'n
First Dist.	Union, Shelby	James Butler, ...	1	..	..	2	3	..	..	..	40	1 00	75
	Shoal Creek "	Wm C. Harris, E. King, ...	12	6	1	2	2	3	..	..	98	2 00	1 00
	Bethel, "	*Wm Acton*, L M Wood, J J Wilder	1	1	..	1	1	1	..	..	25	1 00	1 09
	Hebron, Jeff'n	J Moor, M Pool, D A Ellington,	..	3	..	..	2	1	..	..	65	2 25	2 25
	Mt. Zion, St. C	R Blythe, C Brown, A N Means,	24	1	2	3	3	.	..	..	94	2 00	2 00
	Cahaba, Jeff.	*T Franklin*, J Revis, J H Franklin	22	..	..	16	7	1	..	..	105	3 00	2 00
Second Dis	Ruhamah, "	J Byars, J Timmons, O & E Wood	10	3	3	12	..	..	44	64	116	4 00	3 00
	Salem, "	Z Hagood, I Allred, R H Erwin,	2	..	..	18	..	..	14	29	44	1 65	....
	Bethel, St Clair	J Oliver, H Moor, Wm Chenault,	9	3	1	1	1	..	..	..	53	1 50	1 30
	Canaan, Jeff.	T. L. Miles, ...	1	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	36	40	...
	Rock Creek, "	C. Waldrop, ...	1	1	..	4	1	1	30	39	69	2 10	....
Third District.	Union, "	E. B. Rockett, Wm J Rockett, ..	6	..	..	..	..	..	16	19	45	1 00	50
	Liberty, "	A. J. Waldrop, T. F. Waldrop,	2	2	..	..	2	1	16	31	47	1 75	25
	Mud Creek, "	R. Stone, L. Parsans, ...	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	45	1 00	....
	Big Creek, "	H. G. Smith, O. Franklin, sr...	3	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	55	2 00	2 00
	Roop's, Tusk.	M McMath, D Burgin, A Hullum,	7	3	2	4	2	1	22	49	83	2 00	2 60
	Prude's Cr'k "	Wilson Burchfield, ...	1	3	..	4	..	..	..	..	26	1 00	....
	Good Hope, (Walker.	Jacob Turkenett, Jas. Speakman,	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	75	....
			108	28	9	71	24	11	142	231	1055	30 40	18 56

Colored members.—At Ruhamah 8, Salem 1, Union, (Jefferson,) 10, and Roop's Valley 12 ; total 31 ; which are included in the Total 1055.

Note.—Many of the letters failed to distinguish the males and females, and number of colored members ; hence the Table is incomplete.

Churches & Co	M	*Pastors.*	*Deacons.*	*Clerks.*	*Post Offices.*
Union, Shelby	1	Rich'd Wood	W. Wyatt, H. J. Hill, ...	Jordan Jones,	Lee's Cove
Shoal Creek "	3	W. C. Harris,	E. King, J. Lolley, sr.....	A. Lolley,	Montevallo.
Bethel, "		T P Holcombe	J. Wilder, ...	L. M. Wood,	Bridgeton.
Hebron, Jeff'n		A. McDonald,	H. B. Moor, J. McLaulin, ...	H. B. Moor,	Cedar Grove.
Mt. Zion, St. C.		P. Musgrove,	Isaac Looney, R. Blythe, ...	AMM'Lendon	Springville.
Bethel, "	3	Joseph Moor,	J. Chenault, J. Oliver, ...	J. Chenault,	Branchville.
Canaan, Jeff'n	3	H. G. Smith,	J. Peterson, T. L. Miles, ...	J. H. Baker,	Jonesboro'.
Cahaba, "		J. Byars,	A. Reavis, J. H. Franklin, ...	John Truss,	Truss's.
Ruhamah "	3	J. Byars,	O W Wood, J Timmons, H Turner	E. Wood,	Rockville.
Salem, "	2	H. G. Smith,	J. B. Rogers, R. H. Erwin, ...	R. H. Erwin,	Mt. Pinson.
Rock Creek"	3	A. J. Waldrop	A. G. Waldrop, ...	A G Waldrop,	Jonesboro'.
Union, "	1	A. J. Waldrop	Richard Rockett, ...	WmJ Rockett	do
Liberty, "	2	A. J. Waldrop	Joseph Carrington, ...	T F Waldrop	do
Mud Creek "	4	H. G. Smith,	Isham Hammon, L. Parsons, ...	R. Stone,	do
Big Creek, "	1	H. G. Smith,	J. H. Waldrop, O. Franklin, jr..	J. H. Waldrop	do
Rupe's V. Tus	2	I. R. Arnold,	D. Davis, Wm Pierson, ...	J. A. Burgin,	McMath's.
Prude's Cr. "		O. Franklin sr		W. Burchfield	Tuscaloosa.
Good Hope, W	4			J. Turkenett,	Jasper.

NAMES AND P. O. OF MINISTERS OF THIS ASSOCIATION.

Joseph Byars, ...Elyton, Jefferson co.
Joseph Moor, ...Cedar Grove, " "
Allen McDonald, ... " " " "
Richard Wood, ...Montevallo, Shelby,
W. C. Harris, ...Montevallo, Shelby co.
H. G. Smith, ...Jonesboro', Jefferson "
O. Franklin, ... " " "
A. J. Waldrop, ... " " "

LICENTIATES.

Nelson Skelton, ...Jonesboro', Jefferson,
T. Franklin, ...Truss's, Jefferson co.
Wm Acton, Bridgeton, Shelby co.